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MORE THAN “GREEK”

BY JESSICA ENWESI DESIGN NAILAH FITZGERALD PHOTO ISAAC BIEHL



A guide to multicultural fraternities and sororities

From stomping the yard during probates and calling out to their brothers and sisters during step shows, the Multicultural Greek Council and National PanHellenic Greeks make their presence felt at ISU. But who are these Greeks? You might not usually hear a lot about these groups. In fact, you may find yourself seeing waves of girls representing Alpha Chi Omega and tons of guys advocating for Kappa Sigma, but what if those organizations aren't for you? Many MGC and NPHC Greek organizations found their start in the midst of adversity. Whether it was for protection from outside threats or for gaining a sense of cultural unity, these organizations were created to uphold a sense of community that can be hard to find elsewhere. That's when it's time to explore the diverse and distinct world of Multicultural and NPHC Greek life.

SORORITIES

Alpha Kappa Alpha

Founded: January 15, 1908 at Howard University in Washington D.C. **Colors:** Salmon Pink and Apple Green **Affiliation:** National Pan Hellenic/Divine 9 **ISU President and Chapter:** Zakia Brown, Eta Tau Chapter

If the vibrant colors of salmon pink and apple green don't catch your eye, you better believe the high pitch “skeewee” certainly will. The fine, fierce ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha mean seeeeeerious business (throw that pinky into the air!).

The sorority was founded on a cold January night in 1908, when eight African American women, led by Ethel Hedgeman Lyle, came together to forge a history and bond unlike any other during that time — a time when racial inclusion in Greek life didn't exist.

“My founders were living during a time where black men and women weren't allowed to join collegiate frats and sororities just because of the color of their skin,” says Zakia Brown, a sophomore in psychology. “They were being lynched, tormented and still being refused their basic rights. So during their undergrad years at Howard University, they felt they needed their own coven and formed Alpha Kappa Alpha.”

These ladies fought to establish a sanctuary where they could flourish as independent women and build a community. “Alpha Kappa Alpha's mission is to build friendship, sisterhood and academic success among all women,” says Brown. “We are about ‘Service to Mankind’ We have annual charity events like our clothing drive, where people can come and donate their gently used clothing for others in need.”

The ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha have some upcoming events in the works. “We have our food drive and bake sales coming up in the future. For these events, we like proceeds to go toward different charitable organizations,” says Brown.

Aside from working with the Ames community, the AKAs at ISU want to meet more members of our student body. “We also like to meet new people wherever we go. We love to tell people to feel free to talk to us because we want to get to know you too!” Be sure to be on the lookout for these ladies. You can't miss a well-manicured pinky finger in the air.

Delta Phi Lambda

Founded: December 5, 1998 at the University of Georgia

Colors: Navy Blue and Silver

Category: Multicultural;

Asian based

ISU President: Jasmine Au

Chartered on ISU's campus on March 1, 2015, the women of Delta Phi Lambda are a new multicultural sorority with a powerful history. Delta Phi Lambda Inc. sorority began on the southern campus of the University of Georgia in 1998. As a small minority group in a predominantly white institution of over 30,000 students, founding members Anh Ngoc Nguyen, Theresa Sung and five others, paved the way to form a space for Asian and Asian American women.

Feeling no sense of cultural community on their own campus, these women forged a sisterhood to cultivate and empower themselves through respect, integrity and academic excellence. And last spring, eight young women decided to bring these same ideals to ISU.

"A lot of these [founding] women didn't feel like they fit in with the other groups on their campus. They felt homesick and they were looking for a student organization they could connect to," says Xinyi "Glory" Peng, a senior in psychology and secretary to the "DPhil" sorority.

As a new organization, these dedicated female leaders have already begun to create the space that their founding members had longed for nearly 20 years ago.

"We are a new sorority here on campus so we are trying to find and establish our own road," said Mariah Johnson, a senior in design and member of Delta Phi Lambda. And finding their road is right — the group has started a tradition in which they travel to Perry, Iowa to volunteer their time to special needs children with The Grow program, where they plant and tend gardens.

As this organization continues to grow, they also like to highlight what sets them apart from other sororities. "I just believe there is so much potential with Delta Phi Lambda. Yes, we are like a baby sorority right now, but the sense of unity I feel with DPhil is what made me want to be a part of it. That connection is what drives [my sorority sisters and] myself is to keep building our organization," says Peng.

These young women have only been chartered ISU for one year in March, but with their determination and leadership they will continue to grow as an organization. And they will continue to live by their motto, "Let Our Light Shine Forth."

Sigma Lambda Gamma

Founded: April 9, 1990 at University of Iowa

Colors: Shocking Pink and Majestic Purple

Category: Latino-based Social/Multicultural Sorority

ISU President and Chapter:

Griselda Rodriguez,
Gamma Chapter

If a lifetime bond between sisterhood, strength and morality is what you have been searching for, mixed with a flair of attitude and heart, the gracious ladies of Sigma Lambda Gamma are here to represent with pink and purple everywhere. The University of Iowa is home to the Alpha chapter of the Sigma Lambda Gamma.

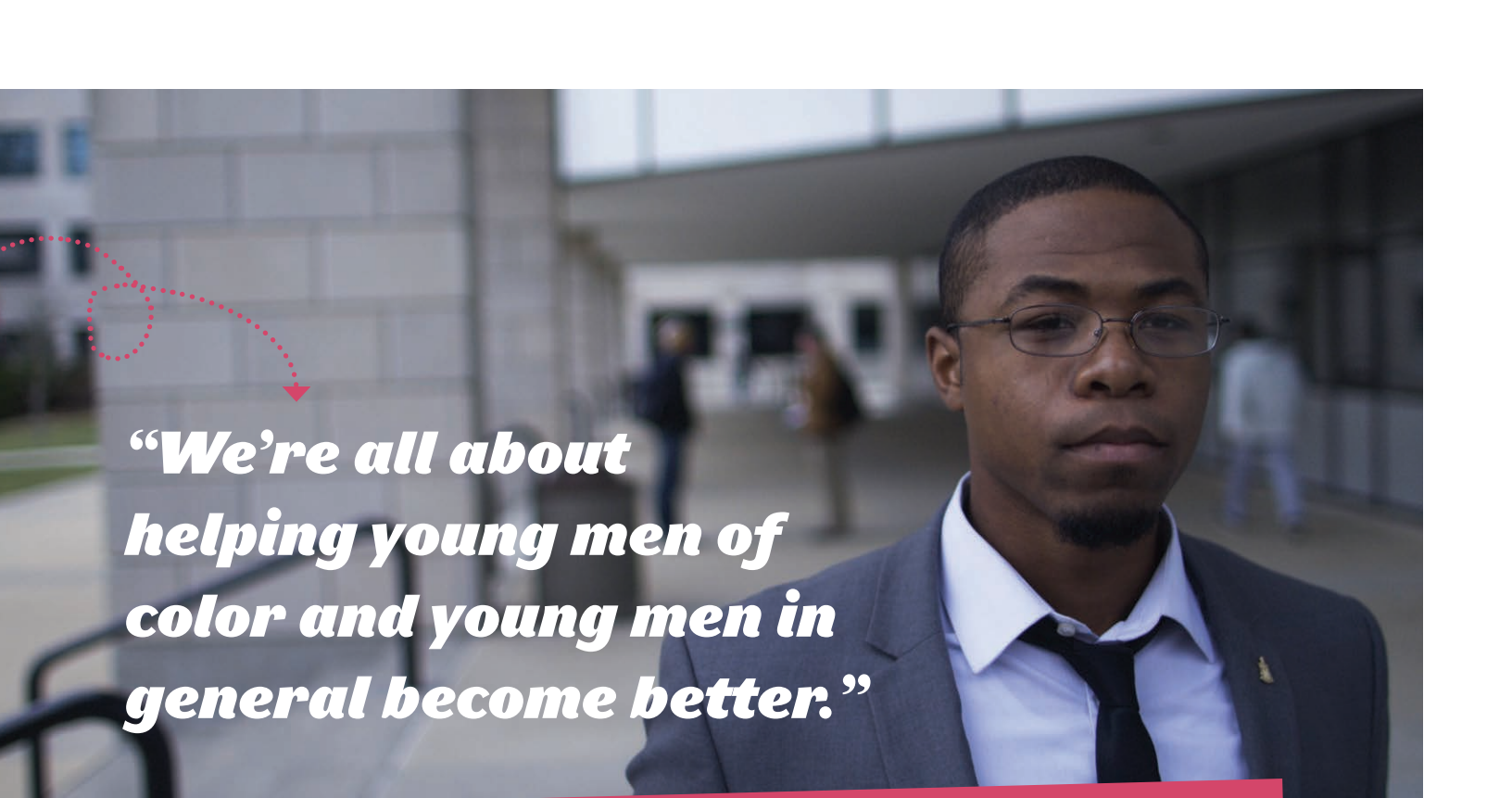
With the motto "Culture is Pride, Pride is Success", the Gammas became incorporated on April 9, 1990. "Our main goal is to empower women and prompt leadership (among them)," says Breayona Reed, vice-president of recruitment for Sigma Lambda Gamma and a sophomore in software engineering. "Although we are a Latino-based organization, we accept all women from different places. It's a great feeling to be a part of an organization that supports all women and celebrates diversity."

With so many different options for those interested in joining a sorority, Sigma Lambda Gamma's rich history sets it apart. Feeling underrepresented in the University of Iowa's student body, founders Esther Materon Arum and Mary Peterson created this sorority to help empower Latina women everywhere. "I personally joined Sigma Lambda Gamma because of [the first] time I met the girls. It was a very family-oriented atmosphere [and felt very] comfortable. I felt that I could be 100 percent me," said Reed.

There's one more thing about the Gamma ladies: They love puppies. They hold the annual RentaPup event on campus where you can rent a cute pup for a few hours during the day. And since this is also a charity event, all proceeds go toward the Boone Area Humane Society.

Feel free to approach women of Sigma Lambda Gamma whenever you see them. They are getting ready to showcase new members this spring semester.

"we are trying to find and establish our own road"



“We’re all about helping young men of color and young men in general become better.”

FRATERNITIES

Kappa Alpha Psi

Founded: January 5, 1911 at Indiana University

Colors: Crimson and Crème

Affiliation: National Panhellenic/Divine 9

ISU President and Chapter: Ontorio Drayton, Omega Chapter

Let’s be honest, there isn’t any fraternity that can be as smooth as the brothers of Kappa Alpha Psi. When they aren’t shimmying for the ladies in the most dapper apparel, the Nupes can be found winning the hearts of many by holding numerous charity events throughout the year. However, don’t let them fool you. Although they may chant that they are “so pretty to their left” and “so pretty to their right”, these men strive to be the living embodiment of leadership, brotherhood and community service.

“My fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi, came together during a time that was post-Civil War,” says Ontorio Drayton (pictured above), a senior in psychology. “After the war, there was a lot of Ku Klux Klan activity taking place, particularly in Indiana. My ten founders came together not only because they wanted to form a brotherhood, but more so, for protection from their surroundings.” In an area where the KKK influence was particularly flourishing, these

nine men were faced with the fact that they might be lynched every time they left their frat house. “Because of the segregation laws, my founders couldn’t even live on campus. So every night they would literally run home, afraid that this could be the day they are snatched and murdered by the Klan,” says Drayton.

But on January 11, 1911, those ten men came together and created one of the oldest historical African American Greek fraternities in the world. Leaning on each other for mental, emotional and sometimes physical support, Kappa Alpha Psi became an incorporated organization dedicated to changing their community’s future.

“Our motto, and what we literally live by, is ‘Achievement in Every Field of Human Endeavor.’ When we say that motto, we don’t mean endeavors here and there, we mean achievement in all that we do. We believe in service to the people and serving the public. We’re all about helping young men of color and young men in general become better,” says Drayton. They don’t just talk about helping — the Nupes have dedicated several hundred hours to community service projects around Ames. They currently host “study tables” at Parks Library where students can come and feel comfortable while receiving help on assignments and

getting study tips. “Also, nearly every year, we host a scholarship pageant to help support the women at ISU. We also support other groups of minority students at ISU, attending the events like #ISUSupportsMIZZOU. We believe it is very important to stay connected and involved with our campus,” says Drayton.

So when you meet a group of men, in stylish penny loafers, hitting the smoothest shimmy in the world, just know you’ve just met a Kappa in the flesh.

Sigma Lambda Beta

Founded: April 4, 1985 at University of Iowa

Colors: Royal Purple and Pure White

Category: Latino-based Social/Multicultural Fraternity

ISU President and Chapter: Raul Hernandez, Omicron Chapter

According to Edwin Martinez Velazquez (pictured below), publicity chair for Sigma Lambda Beta and a senior in computer engineering, there's no organization that can build a stronger bond between brotherhood, leadership and academic success than his fraternity. "We believe in being a tight group," says Velazquez, "but no matter what your background is, you will fit in." He says they're always willing to help each other out. "We'll help you succeed. If you need help with time management or professionalism, if you don't know [these things] we will teach you them. We have a strong alumni field ready to connect our members and build networking connections."

With over 10,000 alumni spanning all colleges, states and careers, Sigma Lambda Beta is a fraternity built in the name of unity and values. And it all started in a small church in Iowa City. On April 4, 1985, at the University of Iowa, in a small chapel named Danforth, 18 united men founded what is as one of the "most culturally diverse Greek fraternity in the world and largest Latino-based organization in the world." Etching the motto "Opportunity for Wisdom, Wisdom for Culture," these men created a space for

Latinos and other cultures to come together and create a sense of unity, at a time where that feeling had been lost. By hosting numerous events throughout the year, Sigma Lambda Beta likes to stay involved with the ISU community.

"We usually bring national speakers or show documentaries on campus to talk about a range of cultural awareness topics like immigration, college life and gender roles," says Velazquez.

Sigma Lambda Beta wants to start dialogue and discussion about the different issues that students may face at ISU. For example, SLB has held forums to discuss the roles men play in society when it comes to rape culture and what they can do to reduce assault numbers. "We intended to not only educate men and women in things everyone can do to prevent assaults, but we also to highlight what services are available in ISU and Ames to get help or seek help for a friend," says Velazquez

Velazquez and the men of SLB have also brought guest speakers to speak upon topics like the U.S. immigration policy.

"In the fall we brought Jose Antonio Vargas, who is a Pulitzer Prize winner, to talk about undocumented immigrants and immigration reform." As a strong group of men working together to create success on this campus as well as in the world, they are an example of what brotherhood is all about. ☺

MGC

Delta Lambda Phi
Delta Phi Lambda
Gamma Rho Lambda
Lambda Theta Alpha
Lambda Theta Nu
Lambda Theta Phi
Pi Alpha Phi
Sigma Lambda Beta
Sigma Lambda Gamma

NPHC

(Divine 9)

Alpha Kappa Alpha
Sorority Inc.
Alpha Phi Alpha
Fraternity Inc.
Delta Sigma Theta
Sorority Inc.
Iota Phi Theta
Fraternity Inc.
Kappa Alpha Psi
Fraternity Inc.
Omega Psi Phi
Fraternity Inc.
Phi Beta Sigma
Fraternity Inc.
Sigma Gamma Rho
Sorority Inc.
Zeta Phi Beta
Sorority Inc.

